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P17: Application of silicone based elastomers for manufacturing of Green Fiber Bottle

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Due to ever-increasing demand of sustainable products, eco-friendly packaging solutions are finding their importance in the paper packaging industry [1]. Green Fiber Bottle (GFB) is an alternative to plastic, glass and metal based packaging for beverages. The manufacturing of paper bottle is a two-stage process, where the wood fibers are first thermoformed in the desired shape followed by drying of the formed geometry [2]. To ensure the robustness of the bottle and to avoid shrinkage of cellulose fibers, the wet-formed bottle is pressurized using a silicone core. The core is inserted inside the drying tool and inflated. This keeps the wet bottle under pressure thereby enhancing formation of good hydrogen bonds, and hence providing good strength. The feasibility of the tool design concept is supported with Finite Element Model. The hyperelastic behaviour of silicone is defined by the deformation energy function (W). To simulate the inflation action of the core, Yeoh's model is used for modelling of W. The strength of the GFB is correlated with the pressure the bottle can hold and the cut off burst pressure from experiments is also reported in this work.

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